

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14316 052010Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /096 W
-----078219 052017Z /64

R 051534Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9954
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: LEFT "SUSPENDS" ACTIVITIES

REF: CAIRO 14217 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. LEFT PARTY SUSPENDS ACTIVITIES BUT WILL CHALLENGE
CONSTITUTIONALITY OF NEW LAW. HARIRI RELEASED FROM PRISON;
BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT CALL HIS DETENTION ILLEGAL. RUMOR
AFLOAT IN CAIRO THAT GOVERNMENT MAY DECIDE WAFD'S DISSO-
LUTION NOT IN GOE INTEREST AND ASU SEC GEN MAY RULE ACT
ILLEGAL. LEFT'S "SUSPENSION" MEANS IT WILL RETAIN RIGHT
PUBLISH NEWSPAPER AND REACTIVATE ITSELF AT ANY TIME.
END SUMMARY.

1. MOHIE EL DIN. ON JUNE 5 LEFT PARTY LEADER KHALID
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MOHIE EL DIN TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE (COMPOSED PRIMARILY
BLOC JOURNALISTS) THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PREVIOUS DAY
VOTED SUSPEND PARTY ACTIVITIES UNTIL INTERNAL SITUATION
PERMITS PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT. DECISION TO BE
VOTED ON BY PARTY'S NATIONAL CONGRESS JUNE 11 (CON-
FIRMATION FOREGONE CONCLUSION). MOHIE EL DIN SAID PARTY
WILL ENGAGE IN NO ACTIVITIES SO LONG AS IT "SUSPENDED."

PARTY WILL ATTEMPT, HOWEVER, TO PUBLISH FINAL ISSUE OF AL AHALI, JUNE 7, PRESUMABLE TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR DECISION. ADDITIONALLY, PARTY WILL CHALLENGE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF REFERENDUM'S IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION ON GROUNDS IT GIVES JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS TO NON-JUDICIAL BODIES AND IMPOSES EX POST FACTO PUNISHMENTS.

2. HARIRI. MOHIE EL DIN NOTED LEFTIST MP HARIRI WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON JUNE 5 AFTER 15 DAYS DETENTION. (HARIRI WAS ARRESTED FOR LEADING DEMONSTRATION IN ALEXANDRIA BY-ELECTION.) HE CLAIMED HARIRI'S DETENTION WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL (A VIEW SURPRISINGLY ENDORSED BY RIGHT WING PARTY LEADER MUSTAFA KAMAL MURAD; RIGHTISTS ISSUED STATEMENT JUNE 4 CLAIMING SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR GENERAL HAD NO AUTHORITY DETAIN HARIRI WITHOUT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL AND CALLED UPON PROSECUTOR TO APPEAR BEFORE ASSEMBLY TO EXPLAIN ACTIONS).

3 WAFD. WEEKEND PRESS NOTED ASU SEC GEN MUSTAFA KHALIL HAS REQUESTED SARAGEDDIN PROVIDE MINUTES OF JUNE 2 MEETING AT WHICH PARTY'S DISSOLUTION VOTED. RESIDENT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT TELLS US RUMOR AFLOAT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED DISSOLUTION IS NOT IN GOE INTEREST AND KHALIL MAY RULE PARTY'S ACTION ILLEGAL.

4. COMMENT: LEFT'S DECISION "SUSPEND", RATHER THAN CONFIDENTIAL

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DISSOLVE, WILL LEAVE IT WITH LEGAL RIGHT TO PUBLISH NEWSPAPER WHENEVER TIME APPEARS PROPITIOUS. ALSO WILL ALLOW THEM RESUME ACTIVITIES WITHOUT GOING THROUGH LABORIOUS PROCESS OF GETTING REESTABLISHED (WHICH LEFT PROBABLY COULDN'T DO GIVEN REQUIREMENT THAT NEW PARTY MUST HAVE TWENTY SITTING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT). MATTHEWS

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